15 April 2020

Deputy Mayor Hart, Councillors Waldock, Defeo, Lucas

Being Mayor has been an informative learning experience. It's also been one of the most ethically and morally challenging. To have been witness to how a very vocal group of Ignace citizens have taken it upon themselves to continually victimize Township staff on social media and in the community, to such a point that it has affected their personal and professional lives and that of their family members. This has also not been beneficial in the attraction and retention of qualified professional Township staff members and attracting of investors to our community. Personally, I have been proud to have had the honour to work with the Township management and staff members.

I do not and will never regret my decision to have run for Mayor and as a community, we have much to be proud of, like our improved relationships with all our neighbouring municipalities in Northwestern Ontario, the community rebranding, the working towards establishing a Community Strategic Plan, Corporate Strategy, Community Visioning Strategy, Community Capacity Strategy, and continuing in the learning process of being a willing host of the deep geological repository project with the NWMO.

I also know that if we want to maintain the things that make our community unique and wonderful, we are going to have to grow, adapt and change. One of the key aspects of moving the community forward is that all of Council has to truly demonstrate sincere support for all Township of Ignace management and staff members. By Council, Township staff and Community members truly working as a team I believe our community will grow and our youth will be afforded the unique opportunity of realizing their career aspirations while living and raising their families in Ignace.

The business of the Township will continue and the Ignace Emergency Operations Group are well in place to continue our efforts to respond to the global COIVD-19 pandemic.

I am fiercely proud to call Ignace my home. I know I don't need to convince many of you reading this that Ignace is a wonderful community, a vibrant place filled with spirit where people can be happy to live, work and raise a family. That's why it saddens me to announce that effective 5 pm on Wednesday, 15 April, 2020, I will be resigning from my position of Mayor of the Township of Ignace, as someone has to make a stand that victimizing Township staff members can not be tolerated.

I trust that in the interim Deputy Mayor Debbie Hart (dhart@ignace.ca) will adequately fulfill the role of Mayor.

Donald Cunningham

Proud Ignace Resident